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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1948

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SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Sidmouth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the public health of the Urban District for the year ending 31st December 1948.

The report conforms as closely as possible with the requirements laid down in the Ministry of Health circular No. 3/49 dated 17th January 1949.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area:

Area	1,242 acres.
Number of inhabited houses	3,192
Rateable Value	£105,174
Sum represented by a penny rate	£441
Population	9,784

Vital Statistics.

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	(Legitimate)	119	63	56
" "	(Illegitimate)	10	5	5
Birthrate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	=	13.18		
Still Births	(Legitimate)	4	2	2
" "	(Illegitimate)	-	-	-
Rate of still births per 1,000 total (live and still) births	=	30.07		
Deaths		169	75	94
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	=	17.27		
Deaths from puerperal causes	=	Nil		
Deaths of infants under 1 yr. of age	(Legitimate)	4	2	2
	(Illegitimate)	-	-	-
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	=	31.00		
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	=	31.00		

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 28
Deaths from Measles ..... Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..... Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..... Nil

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) Council Officials. Health Department.

Medical Officer.	E.L.Perry, D.S.O., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector	Stanley T. Chard, M.S.I.A.

Nursing Services.

Queen's Nurse.	Miss E. Salaman, S.R.N.
District Nurses	Miss L. Pocock, S.R.N.,S.C.N.
	Miss N.D.Smith, C.M.B.

(b) (i) Laboratory Facilities: These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Exeter.

(ii) Ambulance Facilities. Up to the coming into force of the National Insurance Act on the 5th July 1948 an excellent and adequate ambulance service was provided by the Sidmouth Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, which possesses a motor ambulance.

(iii) Nursing in the Home, Clinic and Hospitals. The Queen's Nurse and District Nurses attend to cases requiring nursing in their own homes. These nurses also attend the Child Welfare Clinics and provide ante-natal services.

The up-to-date local hospital, the Victoria Cottage Hospital, provides facilities for every type of case requiring hospital treatment. It is affiliated to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Infectious cases are by arrangement with the City of Exeter admitted to the Whipton Isolation Hospital. On the 5th July 1948 the Victoria Cottage Hospital came under the National Insurance Act.

(iv) Maternity. During recent years pressure on housing accommodation and social changes which are taking place make it increasingly difficult for maternity cases to be confined in their own homes. This applies to all classes of the residential and visiting population. It was of great advantage that until 5th July 1948, the Devon County Council maintained a temporary Maternity Home at The Grove. This temporary home functioned most efficiently and was greatly appreciated by the townspeople.

A permanent Maternity Home in Sidmouth will meet a great local need when conditions allow of one being purchased or built. Sidmouth, both as a health resort and as a growing centre of population, has always attracted a high class of medical practitioner, and it would seem anomalous that where such medical skill is available maternity cases should be sent outside the town.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER.

(i) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in both quantity and quality, excepting the supply of Salcombe Regis Village for which an entirely new supply has been planned and awaits being put in hand.

(ii) Twenty-three samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and three samples for chemical examination. All waters after chlorination were quite satisfactory.

(iii) The supply from all springs which yield plumbo solvent water is passed through beds of limestone chippings.

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(iv) The Salcombe Regis supply referred to in sub-paragraph (i) has, during the past few years, been under frequent examination for contamination, both bacteriologically and chemically and, although the chemical analysis is good, local contamination, as shown by the bacteriological reports together with an inadequate storage and distribution system, has led the Council to obtain the advice of a Consulting Engineer who has drawn up a scheme for pumping water from the Council's mains.

(v) There are 3192 dwelling houses in the area, of which 3168 are supplied direct from the mains. The remainder (24) are fed by standpipes and these are mainly in the Parish of Sidbury, which has a private supply maintained by the Sidbury Manor Estate.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Over a considerable period it has been found that the storm water relief chamber in Fry's field is inadequate to deal with the stormwater at this outlet.

This stormwater outlet is situated just above the point where the Sid is joined by the Woolbrook stream. This stormwater outlet is from the 12 inch sewer coming down from Sidford. Below this outlet the 12 inch sewer passes on as a 9 inch sewer and crosses under the Sid.

A comprehensive survey of both sewers has been carried out and plans for a new twelve inch sewer to replace the nine inch sewer have been submitted to, and approved, by the Ministry.

Since the twelve inch Sidford sewer was constructed, large extensions of building have taken place in the area which it drains.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Under this heading and the previous heading "Drainage and Sewerage", it is appropriate to report on a search for Typhoid carriers.

The search of the area for the detection of typhoid carriers has been continued throughout th e year and on the 9th December 1948 the typhoid organism of the same phage type as the cases which had been occurring over several years was detected.

The Public Health Laboratory Service have rendered most able help in this arduous investigation.

4. (i) Closet Accommodation.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The refuse collection is under the control of the Surveyor and is satisfactory.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See Sanitary Inspector's tabular statement.

(iv) Shops and Offices.

See Sanitary Inspector's tabular report.

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(v) Camping Sites.

(a) The number of sites used for camping purposes during 1948 was two.

(b) The number of licences in respect of comping sites issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was one.

(c) The maximum number of campers resident in the area in any week during 1948 was 64.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

No occasion for action has arisen.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases were dealt with during the year.

5. SCHOOLS.

No change to report.

SECTION D. Housing.

See Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

See Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious & other diseases.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during 1948 (excluding Tuberculosis)

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Measles	7	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	8	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-
Chicken Pox	25	-	-
Acute Poliomylotis	-	-	-
Malaria Benign	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality 1948.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory.		New Cases. Non-Respiratory.		Deaths. Respiratory.		Deaths. Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	-

(contd.)

TUBERCULOSIS (contd.)

New Cases and Mortality 1948.

Age Periods	New Cases. Respiratory.		New Cases. Non-Respiratory.		Deaths. Respiratory.		Deaths. Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX II

Statistics provided by the Registrar-General.

Total Deaths in 1948 - 169

Causes of death		M.	F.
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases	1	-
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	1	2
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	-	2
15.	Cancer of breast	-	4
16.	Cancer of all other sites	13	6
17.	Diabetes	-	2
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	7	13
19.	Heart Diseases	23	33
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	6	15
21.	Bronchitis	2	6
23.	Other respiratory diseases	1	-
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	1	1
28.	Nephritis	4	-
31.	Premature birth	1	-
32.	Con.mal: birth inj: infant: dis:	2	2
33.	Suicide	1	1
34.	Road Traffic	-	1
35.	Other violent causes	2	-
36.	All other causes	7	4
	Total	75	94

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

E.L.PERRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1948.

TABLE 1.

VISITS, INTERVIEWS, ETC.

GENERAL SANITATION.	No. of visits.
Water Supply	19
Drainage	141
Moveable dwellings	25
Factories	20
Accumulations and deposits	9
Rats and Mice	134
Dustbins	2
Animals improperly kept	11

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.	
Enquiries in case of I.D.	54 *
Visits re disinfection	6
Visits (other diseases)	3

* During the year various enquiries and experiments have been carried out in conjunction with the Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Exeter, and this figure includes these enquiries and visits, but does not include visits in connection with taking samples of sewage and river water.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.	
Visits to cowsheds	84
Visits to dairies	29

FOOD SHOPS.	
Visits to Food Shops	53
Visits to Slaughterhouses	NIL

HOUSING.	
Visits under Housing & Public Health Acts	54
Visits re dirty or verminous premises	14
Miscellaneous housing visits (including Council houses)	105

INTERVIEWS, ETC.	
Interviews and appointments	288
Miscellaneous	23

TABLE II

Complaints received	48
Nuisances abated	29
NOTICES SERVED.	
Statutory Notices served	5
" " complied with	4

DRAINAGE. *

Number of complete new house drainage systems..... 8
" " house drainage systems repaired, relaid or extended 34
" " new W.C's 37
" " old closets replaced with new 2

* Drainage work detailed above does not include new Council houses or conversions of property owned by the Council.

DISINFECTION.

Number of premises disinfected after I.D..... 11
" " " " " T.B..... 4
" " " " " other diseases 2
Bedding or clothing disinfected in steam disinfector after I.D 3
" " " " " " " " T.B.4
" " " " " " " " (other diseases 34

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following amounts of unsound food were condemned and voluntarily surrendered for either destruction or salvage.

Meat & Meat Products	104 tins.
	520 lbs. of Imported Meat.
	66 lbs of Home Killed Meat.
Fruit & Vegetable Products	465 tins.
	105 lbs.
Fish & Fish Products	157 tins
	94 lbs.
Milk & Milk Products	70 tins
Miscellaneous	24½ lbs. Margarine.
	1 lb. Cooking fat.
	35 packets of Cereals.
	12 lbs. Ice Cream Powder.
	19 lbs. Creaming Compound.

MILK SAMPLES.

	Passed.	Failed.	Total.
Samples taken for bacteriological test. (methylene blue)	27	21	48
Heat treated samples. (phosphatase test.).....	4	nil	4
Samples taken for T.B.....	2	nil	2
Inconclusive	-	nil	nil
	33	21	54

HOUSING SUMMARY.

	Demolished.	Closed.	Reconditioned.	Total.
Houses dealt with previous to this year	63	10	61	134
Houses dealt with during 194[illegible]				
Clearance Areas.	nil	nil	nil	nil
Individual houses.	nil	2	nil	2
Houses reconditioned.	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total	63	12	61	136

I am,
Your obedient servant,
STANLEY T. CHARD.
Sanitary Inspector.